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FLORIDA INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION  
Tallahassee, Florida

MONTHLY STATISTICAL BULLETIN

Of The  
Unemployment Compensation Division  
And The  
Employment Service Division

A Factual Presentation of  
Unemployment Compensation  
and Employment Service  
Activities and the Results  
of Investigations and  
Research Studies in Florida

Prepared and Published Monthly by the Department of Research and Statistics

March, 1940

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F E B R U A R Y   O P E R A T I O N S   A T   A   G L A N C EU n e m p l o y m e n t   C o m p e n s a t i o n

Benefit Payments:	February	January	Percentage
			Change (Feb. over Jan.)
Number	37,977	41,668	-8.81
Amount	\$340,742.38	\$376,872.85	-9.35

## Claims Received: \*

Initial	8,145	6,217	\$31.01
Continued	36,873	40,501	-8.86
Waiting Period	11,601	12,288	-5.60
Total	56,619	59,006	-4.05

## Agent State Claims Received:

Initial	1,920	3,115	-38.36
Continued	16,020	15,746	\$1.74
Total	17,940	18,861	-4.88

## Liable State Claims Received:

Initial	550	715	-23.08
Continued	4,479	4,961	\$9.72
Total	5,029	5,676	-11.40

## Initial Determinations:

Eligible	5,908	5,699	\$3.67
Ineligible	2,429	1,790	\$35.70
Total	8,337	7,489	\$11.32

E m p l o y m e n t   S e r v i c e

	February	January	
Field Visits	911	998	-8.72
New Applications	10,575	12,226	-13.50
Active File (2-29-40)	64,734	72,501	-10.71
Employer Orders	2,579	3,048	\$15.39
Placements	2,819	3,974	-29.06
Claimant Placements	328	372	-11.83
Veteran Placements	78	74	\$5.41

\* Does not include Multi-State claims

## REVIEW OF FEBRUARY OPERATIONS

Benefit Payments Show 9.35 Per Cent Decrease

## Tampa Drops More Than 40 Per Cent.

The month of February saw a decrease of slightly more than \$35,000.00 in the amount paid to unemployed workers in Florida, as compared to the preceding month of January. Since February is two days shorter than January, a decline of approximately this amount would normally occur. Outstanding was the sharp drop in payments to the Tampa area where payments dropped from \$151,059.66 in January to \$85,059.69 -- a fall of 43.69%. This sharp decline was largely due to the fact that many workers in the cigar manufacturing industry returned to employment after two months of less than full-time employment. Other areas throughout the state generally showed small increases thus preventing a larger decrease in total payments for February.

Placements Down 29 Per Cent; New Applications Off 13.50 Per Cent

Sharp decreases in placements occurred as the resort and citrus industries reached their periods of greatest activity and required no additional personnel. The entire state showed 2,819 placements in February, 29.06% less than the 3,974 made during January. Employer orders, which largely determine the number of private placements, fell 18% (from 3,048 to 2,579).

New applications for employment, which experience a seasonal increase with the beginning of the busy tourist season as multi-state workers enter the state, decreased from 12,226 in January to 10,575 in February.

Initial Claims Up 31 Per Cent; Continued Claims Down 9 Per Cent

Florida initial claims rose from 6,217 to 8,145 indicating a forthcoming rise in payments.

Continued claims, as indicated by the decreased benefit payments during February, fell from 40,501 to 36,873.

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Agent State Claims Decline Slightly

Florida handled approximately 5% fewer agent state claims (claims filed by persons now residing in Florida, but having work history in covered employment in some other state; the other state is the liable state) than in January. Most of this decrease was contained in the initial claim load which fell from 3,115 to 1,920, a decrease of 38.36%.

Active File Continues Decrease

Largely because of the practice of purging the active file of the applications of persons who have registered for employment and have never returned to indicate a continued desire for assistance in securing employment, this file fell from 72,501 in January to 64,734 in February -- a drop of 10.71 per cent.

General Decrease in Most Departments Noted

With the outstanding exception of initial claims, which increased 31 per cent, the February claim loads did not equal those of January. The freeze which affected the citrus and attendant (crate manufacturing, transportation, etc.) industries was responsible for much of the increase in initial claims while the reaching of the "saturation" point by the resort industry caused much of the decline in other activities.

ANALYSIS OF BENEFIT CHECKS ISSUED DURING MONTH OF FEBRUARY  
BY TYPE OF PAYMENT

TYPE OF PAYMENT	NO. OF PAYMENTS	AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS	PER CENT OF TOTAL AMOUNT	AVERAGE PAYMENT
Total*	29,403	\$291,676.16	85.60	\$9.92
Partial**	6,255	38,362.50	11.26	6.13
Irregular***	2,339	10,703.72	3.14	4.58
<u>ALL PAYMENTS</u>	<u>37,997</u>	<u>\$340,742.38</u>	<u>100.00</u>	<u>8.97</u>

\*Payments of full weekly benefit amount for total unemployment

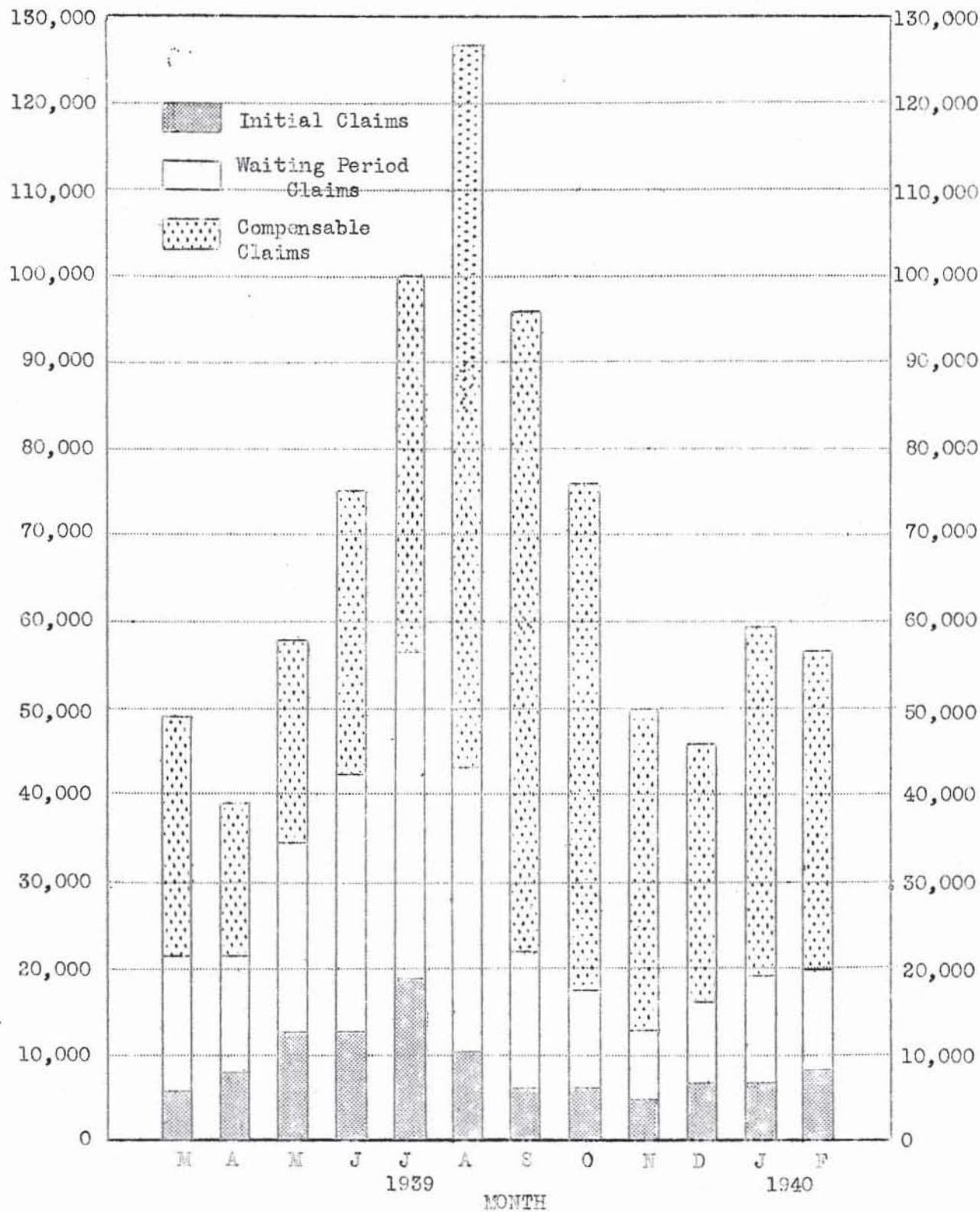
\*\*Part-total payments are included in this classification

\*\*\*Irregular payments are of three types: (1) Final payments in which the pay amount is less than the weekly benefit amount; (2) Payments which represent benefits for more than one week; (3) Supplementary or adjustment payments made to correct previous payments.

NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF BENEFIT PAYMENTS MADE DURING MONTH OF FEBRUARY  
LOCAL OFFICE DISTRIBUTION

LOCAL OFFICE	BENEFIT PAYMENTS NUMBER	AMOUNT	PER CENT OF TOTAL AMOUNT	AVERAGE CHECK
Arcadia	466	\$ 3,287.17	.96	\$ 7.05
Bradenton	724	7,221.70	2.12	9.97
Daytona Beach	202	1,801.50	.53	8.92
Fort Lauderdale	314	3,006.43	.88	9.57
Fort Myers	344	2,777.11	.82	8.07
Fort Pierce	306	2,709.00	.80	8.85
Gainesville	533	4,139.08	1.21	7.77
Jacksonville	6,112	55,619.05	16.32	9.10
Key West	111	917.00	.27	8.26
Lake City	282	2,169.50	.64	7.69
Lakeland	1,859	15,146.12	4.44	8.15
Leesburg	279	2,484.97	.73	8.91
Marianna	513	3,739.41	1.10	7.29
Miami	3,524	39,205.57	11.51	11.13
Ocala	632	5,009.00	1.47	7.93
Orlando	1,715	14,818.56	4.35	8.64
Panama City	703	5,867.89	1.72	8.35
Pensacola	1,012	8,187.16	2.40	8.09
St. Augustine	264	2,283.24	.67	8.65
St. Petersburg	727	7,146.58	2.10	9.83
Tallahassee	1,288	9,229.06	2.71	7.17
Tampa	10,321	85,059.69	24.96	8.02
West Palm Beach	613	5,970.63	1.75	9.74
Winter Haven	1,683	15,185.88	4.46	9.02
Clearwater	328	3,150.54	.92	9.61
Multi-State	3,142	34,610.54	10.16	11.02
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>37,997</b>	<b>\$340,742.38</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>\$ 8.97</b>

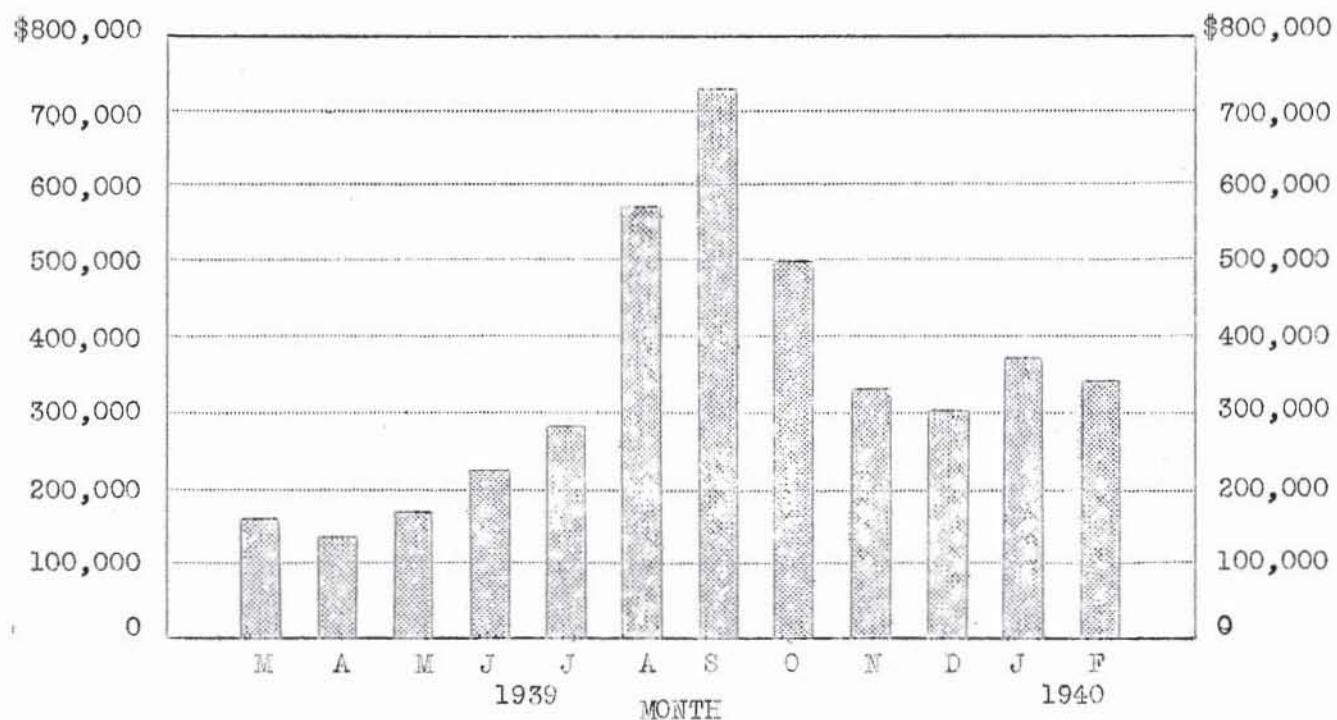
MONTH-TO-MONTH TREND IN FLORIDA  
 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION CLAIMS RECEIVED  
 DURING THE TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD  
 MARCH, 1939 - FEBRUARY, 1940



## MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFIT PAYMENTS, MARCH, 1939 - FEBRUARY, 1940

MONTH	BENEFITS PAID
March, 1939	\$161,820.87
April	134,740.77
May	167,036.25
June	226,069.98
July	281,448.99
August	574,663.17
September	732,542.54
October	498,749.37
November	338,279.57
December	303,221.49
January, 1940	375,872.83
February	340,742.38

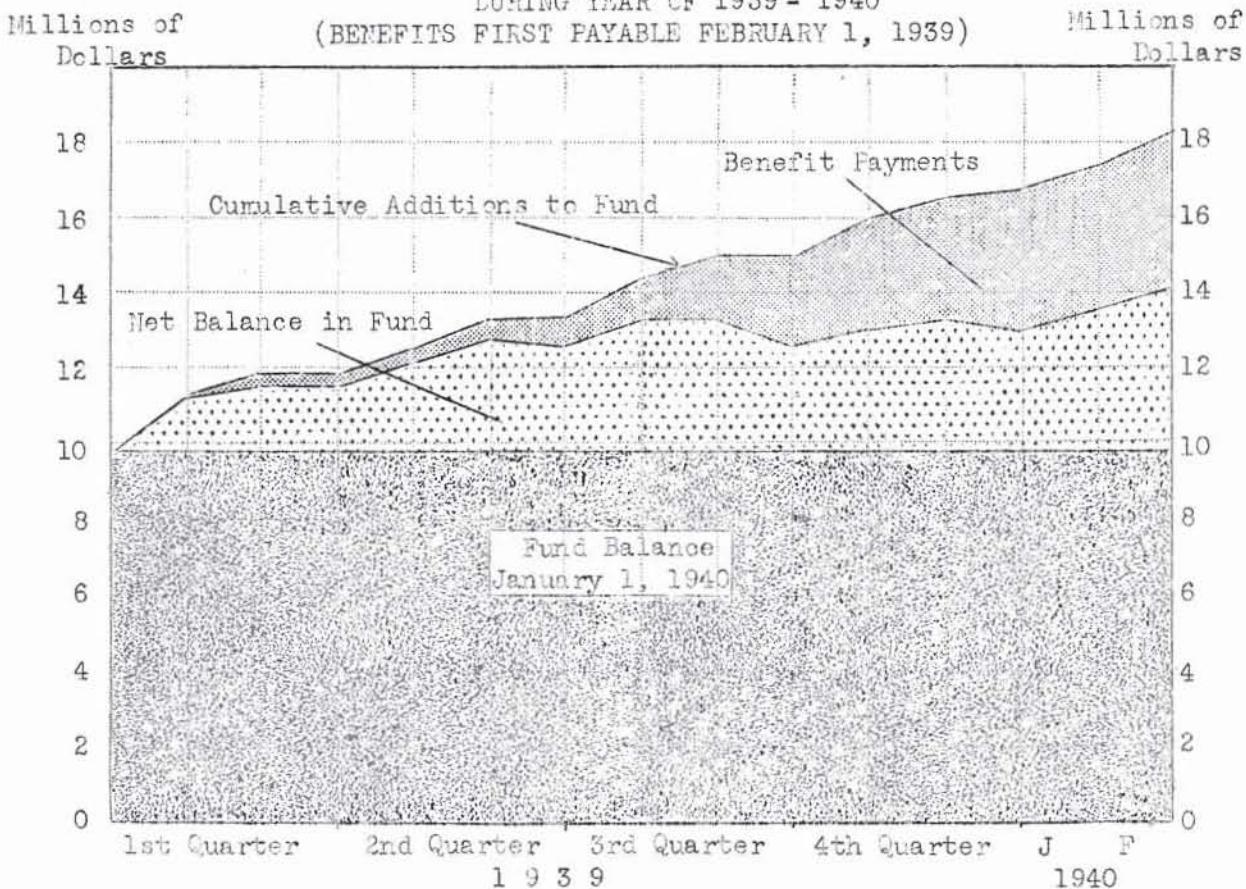
MONTH-TO-MONTH TREND IN  
 FLORIDA UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFIT PAYMENTS  
 DURING THE TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD  
 MARCH, 1939 - FEBRUARY, 1940



CONDITION OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FUND  
ADDITIONS & BENEFIT PAYMENTS

PERIOD	NET ADDITIONS TO FUND	BENEFITS PAID	BALANCE ALL FUNDS
1937 & 1938	\$9,814,649.01	-	\$9,814,649.01
1939:			
January	1,455,071.07	-	11,269,720.08
February	388,301.19	\$85,539.45	11,572,481.82
March	35,059.37	161,820.87	11,445,720.32
April	759,368.02	134,740.77	12,070,347.57
May	910,796.86	167,036.25	12,814,103.18
June	34,905.79	226,069.98	12,622,943.99
July	974,498.09	281,448.99	13,315,993.09
August	612,498.16	574,663.17	13,353,828.08
September	39,178.04	732,542.54	12,660,463.58
October	909,295.10	498,749.37	13,071,009.31
November	582,181.13	338,279.57	13,314,910.87
December	59,986.93	303,221.49	13,071,676.31
1940:			
January	907,415.28	375,872.83	13,603,218.76
February	902,049.72	340,742.38	14,164,526.10

CHANGES IN STATUS OF THE FLORIDA UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FUND  
DURING YEAR OF 1939 - 1940



## AN EMPLOYER PROTESTS PAYMENT OF BENEFITS

## CLAIMANT APPEALS

(In an effort to familiarize the public with the operation of the Appeals Tribunal, which governs disputes relative to Unemployment Compensation, the following actual case is presented as the first of a series of illustrations. Appeals are heard and decisions rendered without cost to either party.)

After due notice to the parties, hearing was held in the County Courthouse at Hiles, Florida, at 9:30 a.m. The claimant appeared in his own behalf and brought one witness. The employer did not appear.

Previous Events Leading to Appeal:

The Unemployment Compensation Division of the Florida Industrial Commission found the claimant to be eligible for benefits. Notices of the determination of eligibility had been sent to both the employer and the claimant. The claimant accepted the determination but the employer protested on the grounds that the claimant had voluntarily left his employment and should not receive Unemployment Compensation. The dispute was placed before the Appeals Tribunal and a determination made in accordance with the following findings.

Findings of Fact:

Claimant was employed as a meat packer by employer, and contracted a cold prior to his separation from work. His physician advised him to lay-off his job for a few days, or until such time as he could cure his cold. His work required him to stay in the cold room of the packing house for a considerable portion of every working day.

The claimant did not ask for a few days off, but gave notice that he was quitting and did quit his employment; and the next day after separation registered at the Employment office and filed his claim for benefits. He gave as his reason for unemployment on his initial claim, "lack of work." He testified at the hearing that he was sick and confined to his home for several weeks after his separation, treating the cold which he stated was the cause of his having to leave his employment, and that he was unable to work. Yet he continued to report on his regular reporting days and earned his waiting weeks and compensable weeks immediately subsequent to his week of separation. His statements to the Employment office interviewer regarding his claim tended to show that his doctor advised him to permanently change his working conditions, while his testimony failed to establish any such advice having been received from his doctor. He received all of his available credits in three weekly benefit amounts of \$4.00, \$4.00, and \$2.50, respectively. He will be eligible for additional benefits on the basis of earnings for the first quarter of 1939.

Reasons for Decision:

Section 6-A of the Florida Unemployment Compensation Law reads as follows:

"Section 6. An individual shall be disqualified for benefits --

A. For the week in which he has been discharged by his most recent employer either for misconduct connected with his work, or for the week in which he has left his most recent work voluntarily without good cause, if so found by the Commission, and for not more than the seven weeks which immediately follow such week, and/or a reduction by not more than three weeks from the duration of benefits, as determined by the Commission in each case according to the seriousness of the misconduct, or the circumstances in each case."

From the record in this claim, including the representations made by claimant, the deputy had good reasons for making a determination without disqualification; but after hearing the testimony of the claimant, the Appeals Examiner is of the opinion that this claimant did not have "good cause" within the meaning of that term as used in the Florida Unemployment Compensation Law, for leaving his employment. By his own testimony he was not advised by his physician to permanently separate himself from this work; and further, by his own testimony he did not ask for time off to treat his cold, but rather gave notice that he was quitting his employment permanently. There is no evidence to show that he has made any effort, other than his registration at the Employment office, to secure employment since quitting, either with this or any other employer.

His testimony contradicts his claim record in that he stated at the hearing, under oath, that he was confined to his home and unable to work for several weeks while treating his cold; yet his claim record shows that he reported regularly, thereby earning his waiting weeks and compensable weeks. If his testimony is true he was not entitled to waiting weeks for at least several weeks subsequent to the date of his separation, because if he was confined to his home he was certainly not available for work.

The testimony further contradicts his initial claim, whereon he gave as his reason for separation, "lack of work" and he testified that he quit his employment. It is also indicated that either the claimant gave a false reason for his separation intentionally, or the party taking his claim was negligent in explaining to him the significance or consequences of the answers to the questions stated on his claim. It is obvious that one who quits his work one day and registers at an Employment office the next day is not unemployed because of "lack of work."

His testimony further indicates that although the cold of which he complained

was of a very serious nature, there was no prescription written by his attending physician, and he merely purchased various medicines at the drugstore to take in treatment of same, just as any individual does in the treatment of an ordinary cold. There was no statement or testimony or certificate introduced from his physician to show that he had been affected by any serious illness. The Appeals Examiner is of the opinion that claimant should have at least requested time off from his employment in order to treat his alleged cold. The Appeals Examiner is of the further opinion that being affected with a cold which was not even serious enough to require a physician's prescription does not constitute "good cause" within the meaning of the term as used in the Florida Unemployment Compensation Law, for leaving one's employment permanently.

Decisions:

The decision of the deputy allowing benefits without disqualification is hereby reversed, and it is held that claimant be disqualified from the receipt of benefits for the week in which his separation occurred and for the seven weeks immediately thereafter; and since claimant has already drawn his available credits, and the seven weeks have already run, it is further ordered that such available benefits as claimant may become entitled to during his current benefit year be reduced by such sum as is equal to his benefit amount for two weeks of total unemployment.

FLORIDA INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION  
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION DIVISION

APPEALS TRIBUNAL

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MAJOR ACTIVITIES OF THE FLORIDA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE DURING FEBRUARY  
BY LOCAL OFFICE

LOCAL OFFICE	NEW APPLICATIONS	FIELD VISITS	PLACEMENTS STANDARD	PLACEMENTS REQUIRED	ACTIVE FILE FEBRUARY 29
Arcadia	111	119	14	-	2,537
Bradenton	202	58	116	1	973
Daytona Beach	237	6	58	82	2,305
Fort Lauderdale	393	25	86	58	1,219
Fort Myers	86	56	17	-	1,258
Fort Pierce	58	27	1	-	359
Gainesville	508	30	117	-	1,767
Jacksonville	1,711	18	180	79	7,537
Key West	83	30	47	-	1,468
Lake City	55	72	6	6	1,387
Lakeland	567	129	43	13	2,272
Leesburg	256	19	4	49	788
Marianna	209	43	13	39	1,734
Miami	2,178	-	494	-	7,705
Ocala	206	-	8	13	1,777
Orlando	430	-	47	-	3,219
Panama City	106	17	9	8	1,466
Pensacola	316	34	117	-	3,343
St. Augustine	139	27	25	-	1,003
St. Petersburg	454	35	185	3	5,170
Tallahassee	293	31	53	48	1,379
Tampa	1,143	108	483	-	11,032
West Palm Beach	409	11	204	47	1,784
Winter Haven	425	16	44	-	1,252
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>10,575</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>2,371</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>64,734</b>

## PLACEMENTS

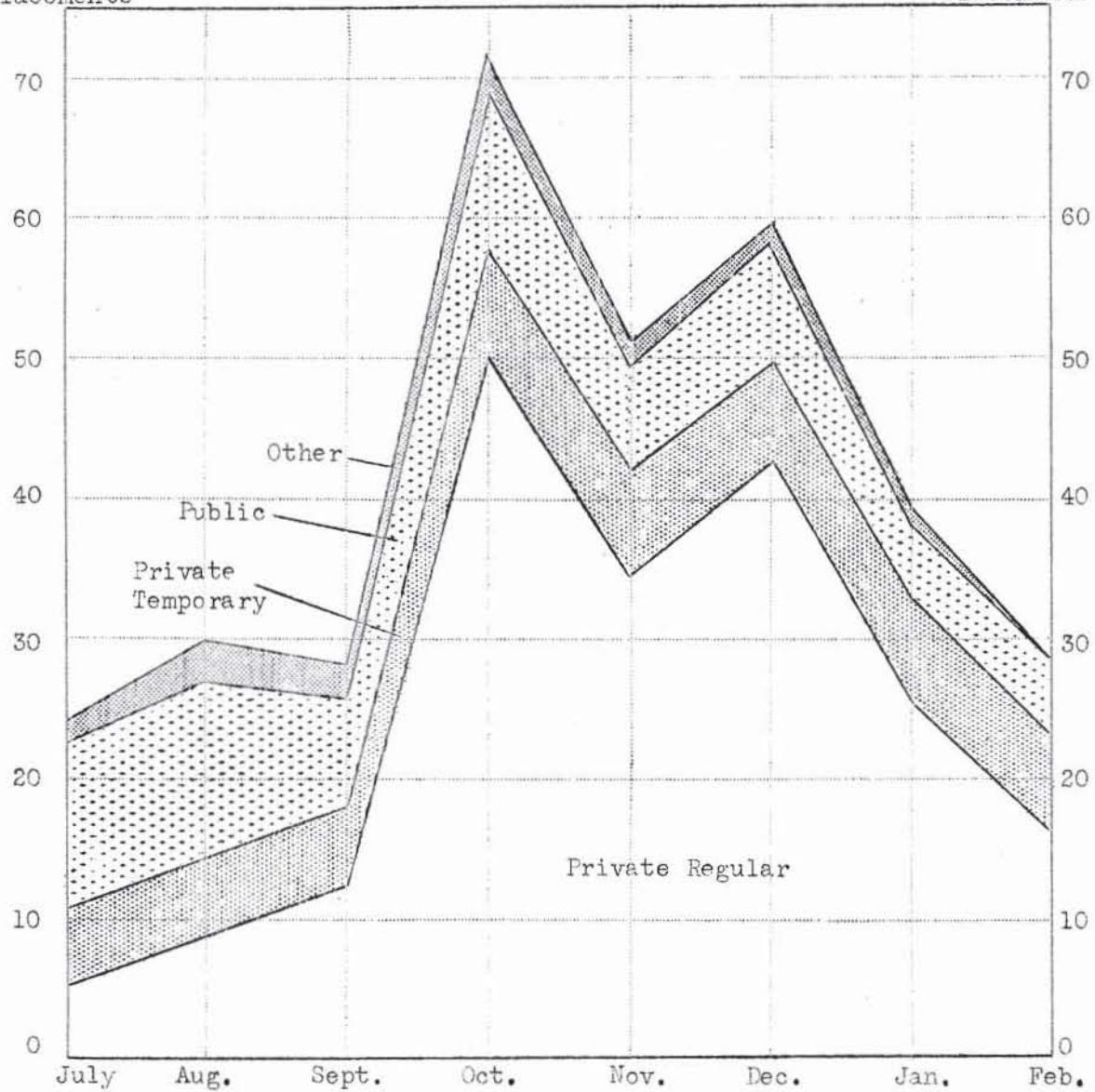
	PRIVILEGE STATEMENTS						
	TOTAL	TOTAL	REG.	TEMP.	PUBLIC	OTHER	CLAIMANT
June	2,212	1,003	566	437	1,067	142	422
July	2,376	1,071	530	541	1,152	153	390
August	2,944	1,441	932	509	1,278	225	701
September	2,718	1,770	1,240	530	799	149	846
October	7,127	5,793	5,029	764	1,216	118	2,917
November	5,000	4,084	3,424	660	865	51	1,386
December	5,923	4,996	4,261	735	889	38	760
January	3,975	3,334	2,588	746	566	75	372
February	2,819	2,333	1,608	725	584	2	329

### MONTHLY TREND OF ALL PLACEMENTS

Hundreds of  
Placements

JULY 1939 - FEBRUARY 1940

Hundreds of  
Placements



INDUSTRIAL DISTRIBUTION OF PLACEMENTS  
BY SEX, DURATION, CLAIMANT & VETERAN STATUS  
FEBRUARY, 1940

INDUSTRY	ALL PLACEMENTS	M E N			W O M E N			CLAIMANT	VETERANS
		TOTAL	REG.	TEMP.	TOTAL	REG.	TEMP.		
TOTALS	2,817	1,653	1,258	395	1,164	822	342	329	78
Agriculture	28	27	12	15	1	1	-	12	-
Construction	538	537	491	46	1	1	-	43	22
Manufacturing	285	211	164	47	74	66	8	35	9
Transportation, Com- munication & Utilities	40	35	9	26	5	2	3	11	-
Wholesale Trade	58	45	31	14	13	7	6	9	2
Retail Trade	213	122	75	47	91	68	23	41	6
Real Estate, Insurance & Finance	34	23	11	12	11	6	5	7	2
Service	844	511	426	85	333	262	71	127	25
Professions	56	12	4	8	44	16	28	12	1
Miscellaneous & Unclassified	22	11	1	10	11	7	4	4	-
Domestic	675	102	24	77	574	381	193	26	20
Government	17	12	4	8	5	4	1	2	1
Relief	7	6	6	-	1	1	-	-	-

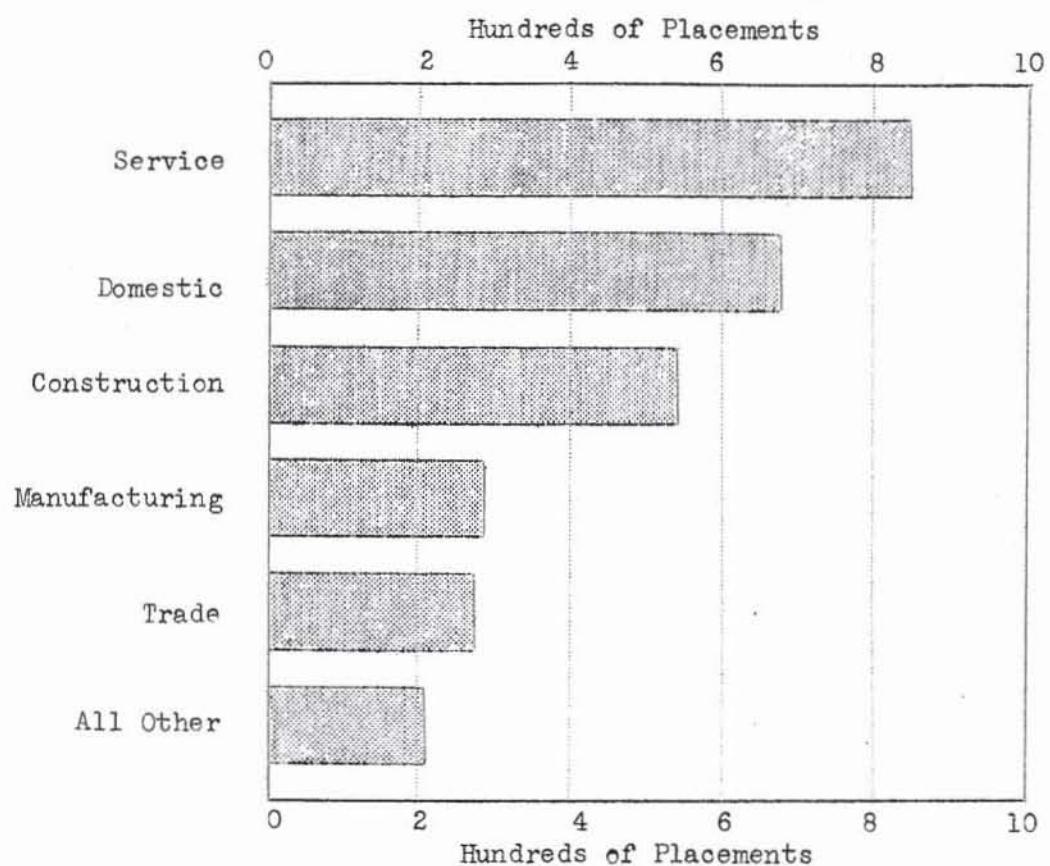
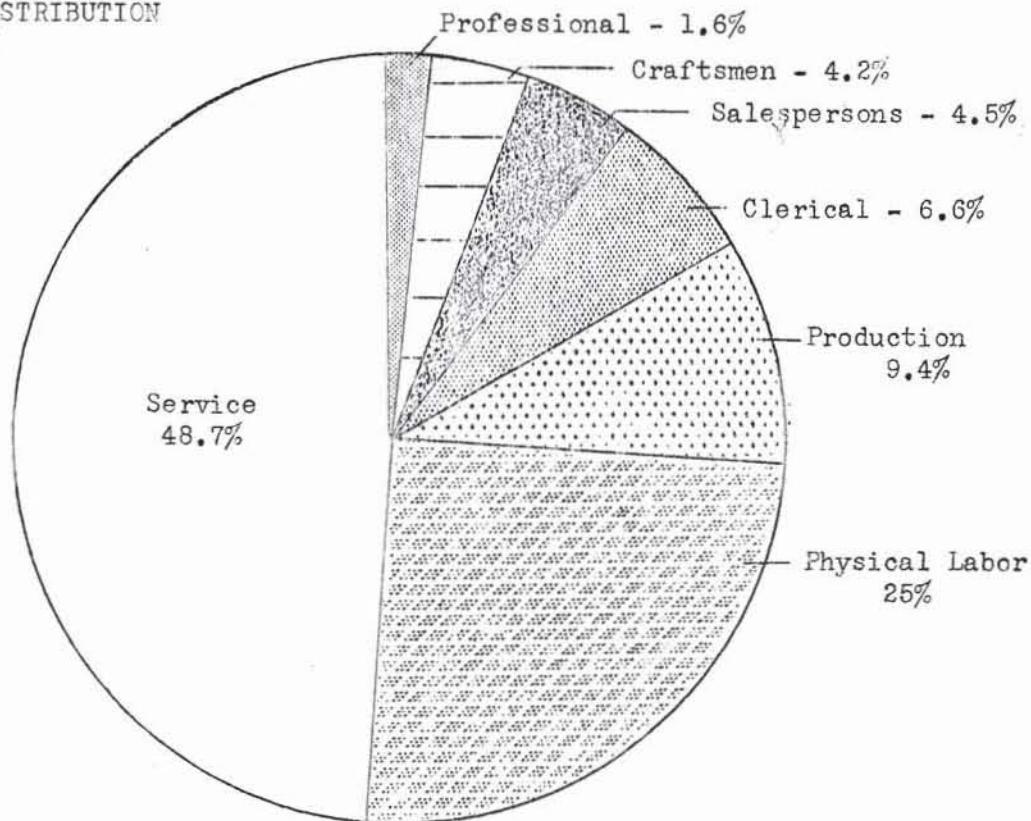
March, 1940

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OCCUPATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF PLACEMENTS  
BY SEX, DURATION, CLAIMANT & VETERAN STATUS  
MONTH OF FEBRUARY

OCCUPATIONAL GROUP	TOTALS	M E N			W O M E N			CLAIMANTS	VETERANS
		TOTAL	REG.	TEMP.	TOTAL	REG.	TEMP.		
TOTALS	2,817	1,653	1,258	395	1,164	822	342	329	78
Professional & Kindred	44	40	14	26	4	4	-	12	3
Professional	21	21	2	19	-	-	-	6	-
Semi-professional	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Technicians	15	13	7	6	2	2	-	3	3
Administrative	7	5	5	-	2	2	-	3	-
Salespersons	127	82	65	17	45	34	11	23	7
Inside	61	26	20	6	35	30	5	12	2
Outside	21	19	13	6	2	1	1	4	4
Related	45	37	32	5	8	3	5	7	1
Clerical	186	63	35	28	123	74	49	44	2
Machine	25	2	1	1	23	11	12	9	-
Non-machine	161	61	34	27	100	63	37	35	2
Service Workers	1,374	470	370	100	904	630	274	111	26
Personal (Domestic)	589	45	21	24	544	368	176	16	2
Personal (Institutional)	735	377	322	55	358	260	98	87	21
Maintenance	50	48	27	21	2	2	-	8	3
Craftsmen	119	114	68	46	5	5	-	28	12
Production Workers	265	206	163	43	59	54	5	26	6
Machine	80	69	58	11	11	8	3	12	2
Manual	185	137	105	32	48	46	2	14	4
Physical Labor	702	678	543	135	24	21	3	85	22
Heavy	629	623	521	102	6	6	-	65	20
Light	73	55	22	33	18	15	3	20	2

## INDUSTRIAL DISTRIBUTION - FEBRUARY, 1940

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION  
BY OCCUPATION

## (A Story Illustrating the Mechanics of Unemployment Compensation)

## JOHN DOE FILES A CLAIM

## AND RECEIVES A CHECK

For the past five years John Doe has worked as a salesman for the Furniture Company of Lakeville, Florida, an insured employer. Due to declining business he is separated from his employment.

The employer advises John to go to the nearest office of the Florida State Employment Service to make application for work and to file a claim for unemployment compensation.

On February 10 John reported to the Employment Office and made his application. Since there was no work immediately available, he also filed an "Initial Claim for Benefits" (first claim) and was told to return to the Employment Office in one week.

John's initial claim was mailed to the Central Office in Tallahassee, where the wage records, which are submitted by all liable employers at the end of each calendar quarter\*, showed that his earnings were as follows:

	1938	1939
January, February and March	\$ 195.00	\$ 255.00
April, May and June	195.00	<u>240.00</u>
July, August and September	195.00	195.00
October, November and December	195.00	180.00
	<u>\$ 780.00</u>	<u>\$ 870.00</u>

Total earnings for the two years amounted to \$1,650.00.

The Florida Unemployment Compensation Law provides that weekly benefit amounts shall be computed on wages earned in the highest quarter. In this case the highest quarter (see underlined figures in wage list) was that of January, February and March, 1939 in which John earned \$255.00.

Earnings of \$255.00, according to tables contained in the law, would establish a weekly benefit amount of \$13.00.

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\* Calendar quarters are used as the basis for computation of benefits. Each year consists of four calendar quarters:

- 1 - January, February and March
- 2 - April, May and June
- 3 - July, August and September
- 4 - October, November and December

The law further provides that the claimant must have earned thirty times his weekly benefit amount in insured employment. Thirty times John's weekly benefit amount ( $30 \times \$13.00$ ) equals \$390.00. John's earnings (\$1,650.00) easily meet this requirement, so he is eligible to receive \$13.00 per week.

Next, the law states that a claimant may receive during a year "whichever is the lesser of (1) sixteen times his weekly benefit amount, or (2) one-sixth of the wages earned by him...."

The total of all wages received by John since January 1, 1938 equalled \$1,650.00.

Arithmetic shows us that sixteen times his weekly benefit amount ( $16 \times \$13.00$ ) is \$208.00, while one-sixth of the wages earned by him ( $1/6 \times \$1,650.00$ ) equals \$275.00. The lesser of these figures is, of course, \$208.00, so John is to receive 16 checks (one a week for 16 weeks) for \$13.00 each (a total of \$208.00),

Here is a list of John's next visits to the Employment Office:

February 17 - Filed first Waiting Period Claim  
February 24 - Filed second Waiting Period Claim  
March 2 - Filed first Compensable Claim

The Employment Office and The Furniture Company are informed that John is eligible for a weekly benefit amount of \$13.00 and a maximum benefit amount of \$208.00. The Furniture Company was given seven days in which to file a protest against the determination made by the Central Office. No protest was made.

On John's third visit (February 24) to the Employment Office he was told how much he was to receive and why it was this amount. He agreed to this computation.

On John's fourth visit (March 2) he signed his first pay order. In other words, John had served his waiting period and was unemployed for one additional week (the first week for which he could receive benefits). At the time of signing the pay order he stated that he had not had any earnings during the week. This pay order was then sent to the Central Office for processing.

After approving the payment the Central Office sent a requisition to the State Comptroller for a State Warrant (benefit check) to be made payable to and mailed to John Doe. The next day John Doe actually received his first Unemployment Compensation check.

Each week after filing his first Compensable Claim, John calls at the Employment Office and signs another Compensable Claim showing that he is unemployed. He will continue to receive a check for \$13.00 each week (mailed to his home) until he has received a total of \$208.00 or returned to work.